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Breakfast w/Secretary of State

22 December 1981

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State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

21 December 1981
Information as of 1600

SITUATION REPORT: POLAND

The regime continues to claim that strike activity and unrest are declining and that pockets of unrest are due to the activities of "irresponsible agitators." A senior general in the military government hinted that martial law would be repealed province by province as pacification succeeded. Such comments are very likely intended to convince isolated centers of resistance, which may have little news to the contrary, that they are alone in opposing the authorities and ought to desist. [REDACTED]

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Resistance still seems to be centered in the areas earlier reported. The media claim that there is no strike activity in Gdansk, but the announcement that an unspecified portion of the workforce of the Lenin Shipyard would have its furlough extended yet again--until 4 January--reflects regime nervousness about allowing these militant workers to congregate. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Warsaw radio finally acknowledged the occupation today, claiming that some of the miners were surrendering. TASS also reports that strikers have barricaded themselves in a steel complex in Katowice and have threatened to blow up the main furnaces. Soviet coverage of this violence could be designed to make the Soviet populace aware that the situation is potentially explosive and might, at some point, require more direct action by Moscow. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] some generals have been arrested for refusing orders in Wroclaw and that soldiers there are on a hunger strike. There is no independent confirmation of this information, but the limited reporting from Wroclaw suggests that it is a main problem area for the regime. There have been strikes in factories and at the Technical University, and the city remains under strict curfew. There have been no confirmed cases of mutiny in the army, but regime anxiety on that score may be impelling it to try to wind down the state of emergency. [REDACTED]

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There has not yet been any reported meeting of the Politburo, but the party is making an effort to raise its public profile while at the same time it purges the ranks. The media are playing up meetings by local party organizations and descriptions of the ways in which they are contributing to the work of "national salvation." [REDACTED]

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Although the current power relationship between the regime and the military remains unclear, the course of events since August 1980 has severely eroded the party at its lowest levels.

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Soviet media commentary is continuing to register general satisfaction with the situation, but it is letting the Soviet public know that there is at least some significant resistance to martial law. Izvestiya today blasted Secretary Haig's assertion on "Face the Nation" that the USSR bears responsibility for the introduction of martial law in Poland. It also condemned Secretary Weinberger's statement that the US was considering measures to apply pressure on the Soviet Union and warned that "blackmail and threats" against the USSR are "doomed to failure." [REDACTED]

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The Soviets are also stepping up their attacks on Solidarity leaders. Yesterday's Pravda accused "counter-revolutionaries" in the union of planning to take Poland out of the Warsaw Pact. Such accusations have the effect of narrowing the Jaruzelski regime's room for negotiations with trade union leaders. [REDACTED]

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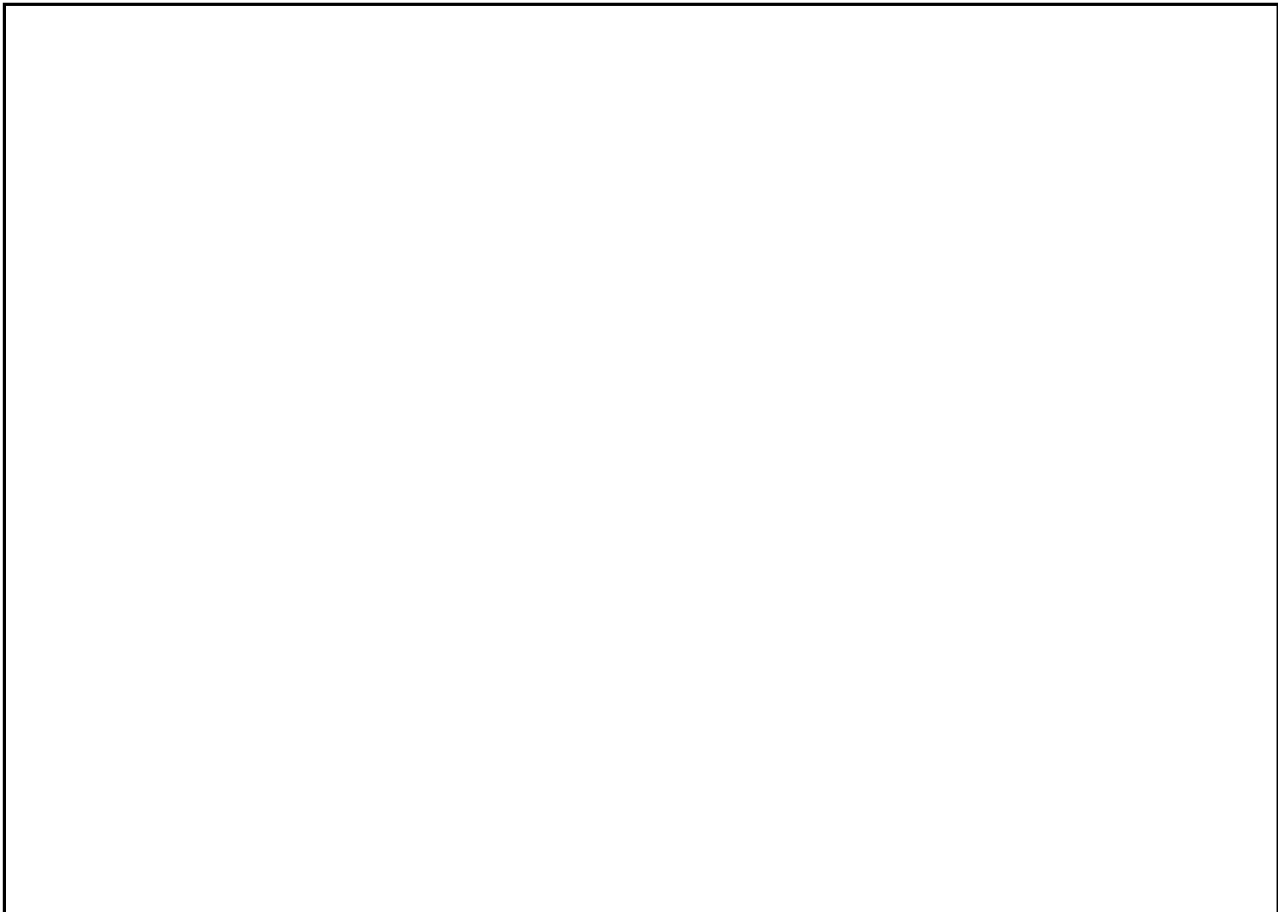
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British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington stated today that Poland is "on the verge" of a major catastrophe and alleged that the Polish situation was worse now than a week ago. He hinted that the West should withhold further financial assistance and channel any food aid through the Church and charitable organizations. [REDACTED]

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Italian Foreign Minister Colombo, in talks with US officials, thought his government would agree to hold up a possible Polish IMF application and apply a no-exceptions COCOM policy toward Poland--provided the other West Europeans go along. He felt, however, that the question of food aid required more thought. [REDACTED]

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Colombo favors a "prudent" course toward Moscow. He would prefer attempts to convince the Soviets that Jaruzelski's policies, if continued, would threaten both the Geneva and Madrid talks, rather than apply sanctions immediately against the USSR. [REDACTED]

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